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9 *Attorneys for Federal National Mortgage Association*

10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

12 RUPERTS COURT TRUST,

13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE
ASSOCIATION; DOE individuals I through XX;
16 and roe corporations I through XX,

17 Defendants.

18 FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE
ASSOCIATION,

19 Counterclaimant,

20 vs.

21 RUPERTS COURT TRUST; DOES I through X,
22 inclusive; and ROE CORPORATIONS I through
X, inclusive,

23 Counterdefendants.
24

Case No.:2:22-cv-00136-RFB-NJK

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

25 Subject to the approval of the Court, Ruperts Court Trust (**Trust**) and NewRez LLC d/b/a
26 Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing (**Shellpoint**), by and through their attorneys of record, stipulate to the
27 following Protective Order:
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1 To expedite the flow of discovery, facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over
2 confidentiality, adequately protect material claimed to be confidential, and ensure protection is
3 afforded only to material so designated, it is, pursuant to the Court's authority under Federal Rules of
4 Civil Procedure 26(c), **ORDERED** this Protective Order shall govern the disclosure, handling and
5 disposition of documents in this litigation as follows:

6 1. **Application.**

7 1.1 This Protective Order shall govern any document, information or other material
8 that is designated as containing "Confidential Information" as defined herein, and is produced in
9 connection with this litigation by any person or entity (the "producing party"), whether in response to
10 a discovery request, subpoena or otherwise, to any other person or entity (the "receiving party")
11 regardless of whether the person or entity producing or receiving such information is a party to this
12 litigation.

13 1.2 The party who asserts that particular information should be treated as
14 Confidential Information under this Protective Order has the burden of proof to establish that the
15 information or document is entitled to such protection.

16 2. **Definitions.**

17 2.1 Confidential Information. "Confidential Information" shall mean and include,
18 without limitation, any non-public information that concerns or relates to the following areas:
19 confidential proprietary information, trade secrets, practices and procedures, personal financial
20 information, commercial, financial, pricing, budgeting, and/or accounting information, information
21 about existing and potential customers, marketing studies, performance projections, business
22 strategies, decisions and/or negotiations, personnel and attorney compensation, evaluations and other
23 employment information, and confidential proprietary information about affiliates, parents,
24 subsidiaries and third-parties with whom the parties to this action have or have had business
25 relationships.

26 2.2 Documents. As used herein, the term "documents" includes all writings,
27 records, files, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, e-mails, video tapes, audio tapes, compact discs,
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1 electronic messages, other data compilations from which information can be obtained and other
2 tangible things subject to production under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

3 3. **Initial Designation.**

4 3.1 Good Faith Claims. Claims of confidentiality will be made only with respect to
5 documents, other tangible things and information that the asserting party has a good faith belief are
6 within the definition set forth in subparagraph 2.1 of this Protective Order. Objections to such claims
7 made pursuant to paragraph 5, below, shall also be made only in good faith.

8 3.2 Produced Documents. A party producing documents that it believes constitute
9 or contain Confidential Information shall state that the material is being produced under this
10 Protective Order by describing the documents or materials to be treated as confidential in writing, by
11 page or bates number wherever possible and/or shall produce copies bearing a label that contains or
12 includes language substantially identical to the following:

13 **CONFIDENTIAL**

14 This label shall be affixed in a manner that does not obliterate or obscure the contents of the
15 copies. If any person or party makes copies of documents designated as containing Confidential
16 Information, the copying person or party shall mark each such copy as containing Confidential
17 Information in the same form as the Confidentiality notice on the original document.

18 A party producing documents that are stored on electronic, magnetic, optical or other non-paper
19 media, such as compact discs, DVD's, video tapes and audio tapes (collectively, "data storage
20 devices") shall designate the data storage device as containing Confidential Information, by affixing a
21 label or stamp to the data storage device in the manner described above at the time copies of such data
22 storage devices are produced. If the receiving party or other persons or entities to whom disclosure is
23 authorized pursuant to subparagraph 7.1 make a copy of any data storage device designated by the
24 producing party as containing Confidential Information, the receiving party or other authorized person
25 shall mark each such copy as containing Confidential Information in the same form as the
26 confidentiality notice on the original data storage device produced. If the receiving party or other
27 authorized person prints out or otherwise makes copies of the documents or information stored on
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1 such data storage device, the receiving party or other authorized person shall mark each page so
2 copied with the label or stamp specified in subparagraph 3.2.

3 3.3 Interrogatory Answers. If a party answering an interrogatory or other discovery
4 demand believes that its answer contains Confidential Information, it shall state so in the interrogatory
5 response, and that portion of the response will be entitled to the protections of this order.

6 3.4 Inspection of Documents. In the event a party elects to produce files and
7 records for inspection and the requesting party elects to inspect them, no designation of Confidential
8 Information needs to be made in advance of the inspection. For purposes of such inspection, all
9 material produced shall be considered as Confidential Information. If the inspecting party selects
10 specified documents to be copied, the producing party shall designate Confidential Information in
11 accordance with subparagraph 3.2 at the time the copies are produced.

12 3.5 Deposition Transcripts. The party asserting confidentiality shall state on the
13 record the portions it deems confidential. The failure to designate testimony on the record as
14 confidential shall be a waiver unless the designating party notifies all other parties and files a motion
15 to designate the testimony as confidential within 5 days of the notification.

16 3.6 Inadvertent Failure to Designate. Inadvertent failure to identify documents or
17 things as "Confidential" pursuant to this Protective Order shall not constitute a waiver of any
18 otherwise valid claim for protection, provided that the provisions of this paragraph are satisfied. If the
19 designating party discovers that information should have but was not designated "Confidential" or of
20 the designating party receives notice that would enable the designated party to learn that it has
21 disclosed such information, the designating party must immediately notify all other parties. In such
22 event, within thirty (30) days of notifying all other parties, the designating parties must also provide
23 copies of the "Confidential" information designated in accordance with this Protective Order. After
24 receipt of such re-designated information, the "Confidential" information shall be treated as required
25 by this Protective Order, and the receiving party(ies) shall promptly, and in no event more than
26 fourteen (14) calendar days from the receipt of the re-designated information, return to the designated
27 party all previously produced copies of the same unlegended documents or things. The designating
28 party and the parties may agree to alternative means. The receiving party(ies) shall receive no

1 liability, under this Protective Order or otherwise, for any disclosure of information contained in
2 unlegended documents or things occurring before the receiving party was placed on notice of the
3 designating party's claims of confidentiality.

4 **4. Designations by Another Party.**

5 4.1 Notification of Designation. If a party other than the producing party believes
6 that a producing party has produced a document that contains or constitutes Confidential Information
7 of the non-producing party, the non-producing party may designate the document as Confidential
8 Information by so notifying all parties in writing within fourteen (14) days of service of the document.

9 4.2 Return of Documents; Non-disclosure. Whenever a party other than the
10 producing party designates a document produced by a producing party as Confidential Information in
11 accordance with subparagraph 4.1, each party receiving the document shall either add the Confidential
12 Information designation in accordance with subparagraph 3.2 or substitute a copy of the document
13 bearing such designation for each copy of the document produced by the producing party. Each party
14 shall destroy all undesignated copies of the document or return those copies to the producing party, at
15 the direction of the producing party. No party shall disclose a produced document to any person, other
16 than the persons authorized to receive Confidential Information under subparagraph 7.1, until after the
17 expiration of the fourteen (14) day designation period specified in subparagraph 4.1. If during the
18 fourteen (14) day designation period a party discloses a produced document to a person authorized to
19 receive Confidential Information under subparagraph 7.1, and that document is subsequently
20 designated as Confidential Information in accordance with subparagraph 4.1, the disclosing party shall
21 cause all copies of the document to be destroyed or returned to the producing party, at the direction of
22 the producing party. The party may thereafter disclose a copy of the document that has been marked
23 as Confidential Information by the designating party, in accordance with subparagraphs 3.2 and 7.1.

24 **5. Objections to Designations.** Any party objecting to a designation of Confidential
25 Information, including objections to portions of designations of multi-page documents, shall notify the
26 designating party and all other parties of the objection in writing up to and through trial of the matter.
27 This notice must specifically identify each document that the objecting party in good faith believes
28 should not be designated as Confidential Information and provide a brief statement of the grounds for

1 such belief. In accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure governing discovery disputes,
2 the objecting and the designating parties thereafter shall confer within ten (10) days after the date of
3 such objection in an attempt to resolve their differences. If the parties are unable to resolve their
4 differences, the objecting party shall have twenty one (21) days after the conference concludes to file
5 with the Court a motion to remove the Confidential Information. If an objection is served within
6 forty-two (42) days of trial, the objecting party must file its motion to remove the Confidential
7 Information designation within half of the remaining time before trial, and the meet-and-confer period
8 shall be shortened accordingly. Where a party authored, created, owns, or controls a document,
9 information or other material that another party designates as Confidential Information, the party that
10 authored, created, owns, or controls the Confidential Information may so inform the objecting party
11 and thereafter shall also be considered a designating party for purposes of this paragraph.

12 All documents, information and other materials initially designated as Confidential Information
13 shall be treated as such in accordance with this Protective Order unless and until the Court rules
14 otherwise, except for deposition transcripts and exhibits initially considered as containing
15 Confidential Information under subparagraph 3.5, which will lose their confidential status after
16 twenty-one (21) days unless so designated as Confidential Information. If the Court rules that a
17 designation should not be maintained as to a particular document, the producing party shall, upon
18 written request by a party, provide that party a copy of that document without the designation
19 described in subparagraph 3.2.

20 If an objecting party elects not to make such a motion with respect to documents within twenty
21 one (21) days after the conference, information or other materials to which an objection has been
22 made, the objection shall be deemed withdrawn. The designating party shall have twenty one (21)
23 days to respond to the objecting party's motion. If no response is filed by the designating party within
24 twenty one (21) days, the designating party shall be deemed to have consented to the objecting party's
25 motion pursuant to LR 7-2(d).

26 6. **Custody.** All Confidential Information and any and all copies, extracts and summaries
27 thereof, including memoranda relating thereto, shall be retained by the receiving party in the custody
28 of counsel of record, or by persons to whom disclosure is authorized under subparagraph 7.1.

7. **Handling Prior to Trial.**

7.1 Authorized Disclosures. Confidential Information shall be disclosed by the receiving party only to the following persons:

- a. Counsel for the parties in this litigation, including their associates, clerks, paralegals, and secretarial personnel;
- b. Qualified persons taking testimony in this litigation involving such Confidential Information, and necessary stenographic, videotape and clerical personnel;
- c. Experts and their staff who are retained by counsel as expert witnesses for a party in this litigation;
- d. Experts and their staff who are consulted by counsel for a party in this litigation;
- e. Parties to this litigation, limited to the named party and, if that party is a corporate entity, a limited number of employees of the corporate entity and its insurers;
- f. Designated in-house counsel and a limited number of assistants, administrative or otherwise;
- g. Outside vendors employed by counsel for copying, scanning and general handling of documents;
- h. Any person of whom testimony is taken regarding the Confidential Information, except that such person may only be shown Confidential Information during his/her testimony, and may not retain a copy of such Confidential Information; and
- i. This Court and this Court's staff, subject to the Court's processes for filing materials under seal.

Such disclosures are authorized only to the extent necessary to investigate, prosecute, or defend the litigation.

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Confidential Information may not be disclosed to persons under subparagraphs (c) or (d) until the receiving party has obtained a written acknowledgment from the person receiving Confidential Information, in the form of the Declaration attached hereto as Exhibit A, that he or she has received a copy of this Protective Order and has agreed to be bound by it. A party who discloses Confidential Information in accordance with subparagraph 7.1 shall retain the written acknowledgment from each person receiving Confidential Information, shall maintain a list of all persons to whom a receiving party has disclosed Confidential Information and identify what documents have been disclosed, and shall furnish the written acknowledgments and disclosure list to opposing counsel as follows: (i) for a person under subparagraph (c), within thirty (30) days after the person signs the Declaration; and (ii) for a person under subparagraph (d), within thirty (30) days after the matter is finally concluded. Disclosure of Confidential Information to this Court, including judicial staff, shall be made in accordance with subparagraph 7.4 of this Protective Order.

7.2 Unauthorized Disclosures. All persons receiving Confidential Information under the terms of this Protective Order are under the jurisdiction of the state courts and U.S. federal courts located in Nevada for all matters arising from the improper disclosure or use of such information. If Confidential Information is disclosed to any person other than in the manner authorized by this Protective Order, the party or person responsible for the disclosure, and any other party or person who is subject to this Protective Order and learns of such disclosure, shall immediately bring such disclosure to the attention of the designating party. Without prejudice to other rights and remedies of the designating party, the responsible party or person shall make every effort to obtain and return the Confidential Information and to prevent further disclosure on its own part or on the part of the person who was the unauthorized recipient of such information.

7.3 Court Filings. In the event any Confidential Information must be filed with the Court prior to trial, the proposed filing shall be accompanied by a motion to file the Confidential Information under seal that complies with Local Rule IA 10-5(b) ~~Local Rule 10-5(b)~~ and a proposed order, and the application and proposed order shall be directed to the judge to whom the Confidential Information is directed. This provision is applicable to briefs, memoranda, and other filings which quote, summarize, or describe Confidential Information.

1 8. **Care in Storage.** Any person in possession of Confidential Information produced by
2 another party shall exercise reasonable and appropriate care with regard to the storage, custody,
3 copying, and use of such information to ensure that the confidential and sensitive nature of same is
4 maintained.

5 9. **Handling During Trial.** Confidential Information that is subject to this Order may be
6 marked and used as trial exhibits by either party, subject to terms and conditions as imposed by the
7 Court upon application by any party.

8 10. **No Implied Waivers.** This Protective Order shall not be interpreted as a waiver of the
9 right to object, under applicable law, to the furnishing of information in response to discovery requests
10 or to object to a requested inspection of documents or facilities. Parties producing Confidential
11 Information in this litigation are doing so only pursuant to the terms of this Protective Order. The
12 taking of any action in accordance with the provisions of this Protective Order shall not be interpreted
13 as a waiver of any claim or position or defense in this action, or any other actions.

14 11. **No Admission.** The designation of any item as Confidential Information shall not be
15 construed as an admission that such material, or any testimony concerning such material, would be
16 admissible in evidence in this litigation or in any other proceeding.

17 12. **Inadvertent Disclosure.** Nothing in this Protective Order abridges applicable law
18 concerning inadvertent disclosure of a document that the Disclosing Party believes contains attorney-
19 client communications, attorney work product, or otherwise privileged information. If a party
20 inadvertently discloses documents or information subject to a claim of privilege or work product
21 protection, such disclosure will not waive otherwise applicable claims of privilege or work product
22 protection under applicable law. Upon discovery by the Receiving Party, or receipt of written notice
23 from the Disclosing Party identifying privileged or protected Documents that were inadvertently
24 produced, the receiving party shall within seven (7) business days either: (a) return or certify the
25 destruction of all such documents, all copies, and any work product or portions of any work product
26 containing or reflecting the contents of the subject materials; or (b) after attempting to resolve any
27 dispute with opposing counsel informally, file a motion to challenge the assertion of privilege and
28 tender the subject documents for *in camera* review with the motion. The moving party shall do

nothing to compromise the privilege claim until the Court rules on said motion and the opportunity for appellate review is exhausted or the issue is otherwise resolved.

13. **Parties' Own Documents.** This Protective Order shall in no way restrict the parties in their use of their own documents and information, and nothing in this Protective Order shall preclude any party from voluntarily disclosing its own documents or information to any party or nonparty.

14. **Motion by Third Party to Compel Production of Confidential Information.** If any third party subpoenas Confidential Information from a party to this action or moves to compel a party to this action to produce any such information, such party shall immediately notify the parties who originally produced and/or designated such information that a subpoena has been served or a motion has been made in order to allow the parties who originally produced and/or designated such information the opportunity to seek a protective order or oppose the motion or application. If, within thirty (30) days after receiving notice of a subpoena seeking Confidential Information from a receiving party, the party who originally produced and/or designated such information fails to move for a protective order, the party subject to the subpoena may produce said information. In addition, if a party is ordered to produce Confidential Information covered by this Protective Order, then notice and, if available, a copy of the order compelling disclosure shall immediately be given the parties who originally produced and/or designated such information. Nothing in this Protective Order shall be construed as requiring the party who is ordered to produce such Confidential Information to challenge or appeal any order requiring the production of such information or to subject himself/herself to any penalty for non-compliance with any legal process or seek any relief from the Court.

15. **No Effect on Other Rights.** This Protective Order shall in no way abrogate or diminish any pre-existing contractual, statutory, or other legal obligations or rights of any party with respect to Confidential Information.

16. **Modification.** In the event any party hereto seeks a Court order to modify the terms of this Protective Order, or seeks a protective order which incorporates the terms and conditions of this Protective Order said party shall make such request by written stipulation or noticed motion to all parties that must be served and filed in accordance with local court rules.

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17. **Handling Upon Conclusion of Litigation.** All parties, counsel, and persons to whom disclosure was made agree to return all Confidential Information to the designating party within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of litigation between the parties, including final appellate action or the expiration of time to appeal or seek further review. In addition, counsel shall certify in writing that all such Confidential Information have been returned. Counsel for each party also shall contact each person to whom that party has provided a copy of any Confidential Information and request the documents be returned. In lieu of returning Confidential Information, the person or party in possession of such information may elect to destroy it. If the person or party in possession of Confidential Information elects to destroy it rather than return it, that person or party must notify the designating party in writing of the destruction of the information within ninety (90) days of the conclusion of litigation between the parties, including final appellate action or the expiration of time to appeal or seek further review.

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18. **Survival of the Terms of this Protective Order.** Even after the termination of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations imposed by this Protective Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs.

DATED this 19th day of September, 2022.

AKERMAN, LLP	ROGER P. CROTEAU & ASSOCIATES, LTD
<u>/s/ Paige L. Magaster</u>	<u>/s/ Christopher L. Benner</u>
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<i>Attorneys for NewRez LLC d/b/a</i>	
<i>Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing</i>	

IT IS SO ORDERED.


UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

DATED: September 19, 2022

AKERMAN LLP

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LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89134
TEL.: (702) 634-5000 – FAX: (702) 380-8572

EXHIBIT A**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

I, _____, and read in its entirety and understand the Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court, for the District of Nevada, on _____, 2022, in the case of *Ruperts Court Trust v. NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, et al.*, Case No.: 2:22-cv-00136-RFB-NJK. I agree to comply with and be bound by all terms of this Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with this Protective Order. Further, I solemnly promise that I will not offer to sell, advertise or publicize that I have obtained any protected material subject to this Protective Order.

At the conclusion of this matter, I will return all protected materials which came into my possession or control to counsel for the party from whom I received the protected material, or I will destroy those materials. I understand that any confidential information contained within any summaries of protected material shall remain protected pursuant to the terms of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court, for the District of Nevada for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: _____

City and State where signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

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